

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A breath collection system for use in obtaining metabolic measurements from an individual's respiration, comprising:
a breathing apparatus configured to communicate with at least a mouth of the individual; and
a conduit including a first end coupled to a mouthpiece and a second end configured to be coupled to an apparatus apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration, said the conduit including at least a section that is configured to be placed into formed to a desired configuration shape and that substantially maintains said the desired configuration shape until placed informed to another desired configuration shape.
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said the breathing apparatus comprises a mouthpiece.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said the mouthpiece comprises a breathing end configured to be at least partially inserted into the mouth of the individual.
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said the mouthpiece comprises a conduit coupling section oriented in an at least partially downwardly extending direction relative to said the breathing end, said the conduit coupling section being configured to be coupled to said the first end of said the conduit.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said the breathing apparatus comprises a mask configured to be placed over at least the mouth of the individual.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein saidthe breathing apparatus comprises:

at least one inlet valve; and

at least one outlet valve.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein saidthe at least one inlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates introduction of gases to be inhaled by the individual into saidthe breathing apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein saidthe at least one inlet valve opens upon application of a negative pressure within saidthe breathing apparatus.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein saidthe at least one outlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates evacuation of the individual's expiratory gases from saidthe breathing apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein saidthe at least one outlet valve opens upon application of a positive pressure within saidthe breathing apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein saidthe at least one outlet valve is positioned on at least one of a conduit coupling section of saidthe breathing apparatus and an end of saidthe conduit.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least saidthe section of saidthe conduit comprises a longitudinally expandable and collapsible member.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein saidthe longitudinally expandable and collapsible member comprises a section of corrugated tubing.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least saidthe section of saidthe conduit carries at least one elongate compliant member.

15. (Currently amended) A breathing conduit, comprising:
a first end configured to be coupled to a breathing apparatus that is capable of communicating with at least a mouth of an individual;

a second end configured to be coupled to apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration;
and

at least a section located between saidthe first end and saidthe second end and which is configured to be placed into formed to a desired configurationshape and that substantially maintains saidthe desired configurationshape until placed informed to another desired configurationshape.

3 |

16. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least saidthe section is at least partially longitudinally collapsible and at least partially longitudinally expandable.

17. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 16, wherein at least saidthe section comprises corrugated tubing.

18. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least saidthe section carries at least one elongate compliant member that is configured to be bent to shape at least saidthe section into saidthe desired configurationshape and maintain saidthe desired configurationshape.

19. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining a resting metabolic rate of an individual, comprising:
placing the individual in a resting position;
coupling a breathing apparatus and conduit in communication therewith in flow communication

between an airway of the individual and an apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration; and

~~manipulating forming~~ at least a portion of ~~said~~the conduit ~~into to~~ a desired ~~configuration~~shape, ~~said~~the conduit being configured so as to substantially maintain ~~said~~the desired ~~configuration~~shape.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ coupling comprises: coupling ~~said~~the breathing apparatus in substantially fluid-tight connection to at least a mouth of the individual; and coupling ~~said~~the conduit in substantially fluid-tight communication to ~~said~~the apparatus.

B 1
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ ~~manipulating forming~~ comprises at least one of at least partially longitudinally collapsing locations of at least ~~said~~the portion and at least partially longitudinally expanding locations of at least ~~said~~the portion.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ ~~manipulating forming~~ comprises bending at least one elongate compliant member carried upon a wall of at least ~~said~~the portion.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein, upon ~~said~~ ~~manipulating forming~~, ~~said~~the conduit at least partially supports ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising substantially restricting respiration through a nose of the individual.